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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5303  
INFO RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 0027  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHINGTON DC  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC  
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 1169  
RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0840  
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 0611  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RUEHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI 5849

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 TRIPOLI 000770

NOFORN SIPDIS STATE FOR NEA/MAG; STATE PLEASE PASS USTR; ENERGY FOR GINA ERICKSON; COMMERCE FOR NATE MASON.

E.O. 12958: DECL: 9/28/2019

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SUBJECT: LIBYA'S LATEST CONTRETEMPS - WITH CANADA TRIPOLI 00000770 001.2 OF 002

CLASSIFIED BY: Gene A. Cretz, Ambassador, U.S. Embassy Tripoli, Department of State. REASON: 1.4 (b), (d)

- 1.(S/NF) Summary: The Canadian Ambassador to Libya confirmed September 28 that the Libyan Government had canceled Libyan Leader Muammar al-Qadhafi's visit to Libya.
- 2.(S/NF) Canadian Ambassador to Libya Sandra McArdle called the Ambassador September 28 to inform him of the escalating contretemps between the Canadian and Libyan governments.
- 3.(S/NF) Fearful of delivering bad news to Qadhafi, McArdle explained that the notoriously slow Libyan bureaucracy, delayed passing Ottawa's message to Qadhafi.
- 4.(C/NF) McArdle added that the last-minute nature of the trip had posed serious logistical challenges. The Canadian Government was forced to issue a statement that it was not a formal diplomatic mission.
- 5.(S/NF) On September 27, the Libyans responded strongly to the perceived Canadian snub of Qadhafi. The National Oil Corporation called in the Canadian Ambassador to demand an apology.
- 6.(S/NF) McArdle said she has advocated some kind of public and private statements from the Canadian PM and FM, which would indicate a Canadian willingness to work with the Libyans.
- 7.(S/NF) British Ambassador Sir Vincent Fein requested to meet the Ambassador on short notice September 28 to say he had queried London to see what the British position was.
- 8.(S/NF) Comment: Post believes it would be in the USG's interest to weigh in on the same basis as the British may decide to do: namely, to emphasize the importance of the oil industry to the region.